



## DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**July 10, 2013**

- I. Call to Order – **7:09** Amanda Sortwell (AS), president  
Board Members Present: Jonathan Silva, Vice-president (JS), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), Jill Nolen (JN), Chad Catron (CC), Melissa Sortwell (MS), Tess Contreras (TC)  
Board Members Absent: none  
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Susan Coulter (SC), educational services director; Kathy Yoshida, director of interpreting services;  
Visitors: 17 visitors signed in, a copy of the sign-in sheet is filed with the minutes.  
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin and Nikki Wolfe
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – none
- III. Approval of Agenda Items –2 changes: 1) table access to interpreting in the hospital setting, 2) move ‘change in by-laws re AC’ to unfinished business M/S/P
- IV. Approval of **June** Board Minutes –approved by consent
- V. President’s Report – AS  
 We had a very productive meeting with DHHSC management and Board members having a shared vision; now would like everyone involved, so will be scheduling a time for a larger meeting. What is the vision for the future?
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – JS  
 10 people interested in joining the Board, so now will have a full 12! Please let JS know if you are interested so he can explain the duties. The Board, for example, fundraised for the nice sign out front. We also support staff with any issues that may arise.
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS no report
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report –  
**As of June 30th** Financial Report distributed but not reviewed. Anyone interested in more information just needs to ask the Board.

Checking/savings balance	\$196,630
Accounts receivable total	\$338,734
AR grants	\$221,620
AR interpreting	\$117,114
Accounts payable	\$2,672
Board private fund balance	\$2,823
Profit/loss	\$15,531

DSS grant awarded	\$650,564
DSS grant spent	\$650,564

#### IX. Executive Director's Report – MB

For 2-3 weeks the AC was broken but now we have a new one and we are very happy!

##### Fiscal News:

We ended the 2012-2013 fiscal year in excellent financial health and we look forward to another strong year. We were able to finish everything smoothly and zero out various grant balances. On July 1<sup>st</sup> we launched a new fundraiser, Touched Hearts, Deaf Success fundraiser, and we need your help in spreading the word. Please encourage your friends, family, colleagues, and business contacts to support and contribute to our fundraiser. Monies raised from this fundraiser will support current staff and services. For example, we'd like to expand Merced and Salinas Client Services Specialist positions and make them full-time to better serve their local D/HH Communities. The fundraiser is described on our website, and we're having a vlog made to explain the purpose of this fundraiser. People can donate online through razoo and glyde (with their phone/tablet device). We also have small business-sized cards made to be easily distributed. They're really cute! This fundraiser also ties into our 30<sup>th</sup> Gala, which will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>; we will use the title of this fundraiser as the theme for our 30<sup>th</sup> Gala to reflect our passion for our community and goal of success for our clients and community members. Sponsors who donate \$500 will get tax-donation letter, VIP seats (tickets not included) at the 30<sup>th</sup> Gala, and public acknowledgement. However, for those who donate \$1000, they will get two free tickets to the Gala, VIP seats, tax-donation letter, and public acknowledgement. These are some perks that sponsors will get, but we'd like to raise awareness about our wonderful Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. Please spread the word! Thank you.

##### Staffing Updates:

As you may know, July 19<sup>th</sup> is the last day for April Davies, our staff/community interpreter, and Christy Burke, our Fresno Client Services Specialist.

We are also sad to share that Jacque Fitzpatrick, our Salinas Client Services Specialist, will be resigning on August 14<sup>th</sup>. She recently received EIPA certification and will become a full-time educational interpreter. We are very proud of her and support her professional goals.

We will greatly miss these three terrific staff and wish them all the best with their future goals. We still hope they will be connected to DHHSC as resources, friends, and professional colleagues. We will be advertising and looking for people to fill those positions.

##### Training:

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Cheryl, Merced Coordinator of Client Services, and I attended an all-day Disability Advocacy Team Regional Meeting to discuss advocacy efforts throughout the Central Valley.

We represent the D/HH Community and focus on communication and language access.

On Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, our management team will attend an all-day Emotional Intelligence workshop provided by National Seminars Training. This topic is becoming more commonplace among professionals working with people because having an understanding of what makes people tick increases team cooperation and decreases conflicts. This is different from IQ as some people may have average IQ but high EQ; some people have a knack of understanding others and gaining cooperation more easily. This training would be beneficial for our management team because we work with staff and the community on a daily basis, and I personally believe that having a better understanding of each person's spoken and unspoken emotional needs, we'd work more effectively together.

#### X. Committee Reports –

- a. Bylaws Committee – SS all Board members have a copy of the proposed by-laws change.

- b. Fundraising Committee – JN 1) Sweet Tomatoes had 25 people 2) Panda Express this Sunday July 14 from 11-8 @ Ashlan and Cedar will give 20% 3) 1<sup>st</sup> annual 5K run ‘soak me pah’ can sign up online 4) Deaf Day at the Zoo--still working on the date, maybe in December 5) Lake Day at Bass lake August 10, 8 am-8 pm
  - c. Grant Monitoring Committee – JN LEAD grant supervisor is JL, but Cheryl Parreira was teaching the courses. All of the money was used.
- XI. General Board Comments – SS went to the interpreted performance of Fiddler on the Roof at Roger Rocka’s. There was only one other D/HH person there. We need to advertise this more to improve attendance so we don’t lose this valuable community resource. MB explained more about the interpreted performances at Roger Rocka’s. They are advertised on community email. If you are not signed up for community email please see Stacy at the front desk
- XII. Unfinished Business –
- A. SS explained the proposal to change the bylaws regarding the Advisory Council (AC) to 1) allow for dismissal of AC members for good cause by DHHSC management and 2) allow for an interview process by DHHSC Board, management or other AC members when selecting new AC members. M/S/P
- XIII. New Business –
- A. EHDI: AS went to 3-day conference of professionals who work with D/HH children ages 0-5 and gathered info about early intervention which is valuable for children in the Fresno area. She gave a 3 hour presentation at SDD here at DHHSC. Specifically they have identified a need to improve services for babies with moderate hearing loss. They want to ensure that ALL options are available. Having a baby diagnosed with hearing loss can be very confusing for families and cause them to feel isolated. They have developed a list of priorities.
    - 1) Link DHHSC to hospital’s and school’s websites
    - 2) Develop a relationship with other agencies such as EPU
    - 3) Develop and distribute DHHSC brochures along with early intervention info
    - 4) Provide D/HH training to hospitals
    - 5) Improve accessibility/info in lobby of hospital
    - 6) Distribute DVD’s and Preezi to hospital waiting rooms (including “through Deaf Child’s eyes)
- XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –Coil: questions about fundraisers, parking at Woodward Park and Bass Lake, and transportation to Bass Lake. JN answered questions and pointed out that alcohol is discouraged. Tabitha: what do the tickets get us? JN: You get to be with all of us!
- XV. Announcements – SC
- A. Thursday and Friday this week RWD will present Deaf Reel Pride. Each day will be 9-11:15. The first day a movie will be shown then discussed the next day to learn more about Deaf culture and history. July 11-12 and July 18-19 will feature the movie “Signs of Respect” by Dr. Tom Holcomb. August 8-9 the PBS documentary “Through Deaf Eyes” will be shown. August 15-16 the movie will be “Audism Unveiled” by Facundo Montenegro. All discussions will be in ASL. This is a free event and childcare will be provided. Thank you Rosemary!
  - B. ASL summer program for families with D/HH children or deaf parents; August 5 & 12, August 7 & 14, August 9 & 16. 10-noon. Cost \$25 for first child and \$10 for each additional child
  - C. Coil: Friday at 7 baseball game, need fans, only Deaf team, name of team Central Cal Zombies. Fresno Regional Sports Park between Marks and West, south of Jensen.

- D. Debra Martinez: CADCV car wash postponed
  - E. Next meeting Community Comments September 7; no August board meeting.
- XVI. Adjournment 8:26 PM

**Date of Next Local Board Meeting: Saturday September 7 @ 2pm @ DHHSC – Fresno**

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary